

Media Tip Sheet:

“How does a tree become a log?”



Step 1: A forest-land owner has decided he has many trees that need to be cut for forest management and profit.

All photos courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

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Step 2: A professional forester helps the landowner develop a management plan.

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Step 3: A professional forester views the timber to mark the number and size of trees to be cut, calculates total footage and value. He/she will also check survey lines at the courthouse to make sure the trees marked are not across boundary lines. The marked trees are sold to licensed timber buyers.

Step 4: The successful buyer generally enters into a standard contract with the landowner over a 1 or 2 year period. The contract includes a payment schedule, the use of best management practices (BMPs) and any other restrictions deemed appropriate by all parties.

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Step 5: Logging, cutting and hauling equipment is moved to the forest. The logging company then establishes a landing or loading area and outlines possible roads to remove the cut trees.

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Step 6: Taking into consideration the possible path of the dropped tree, timber cutters begin to cut trees so they do not damage the immature trees or trees to be harvested in the near future and are not crossing boundary lines, creeks or fence lines.

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Step 7: Cutting the tree at its lowest point from the ground maximizes footage and value.

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Step 8: The cutter decides the best (straight) lengths to cut the tree. The tree is cut into logs or the crown is cut off and the tree is skidded “tree length” to the landing to be processed or loaded.

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Step 9: Logs or tree lengths are then loaded onto trucks for transport to the mill for processing into lumber. Each truck load contains about 3,000 board feet of logs.

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If you would like a copy of any of the photos in this PowerPoint, contact Phil Bloom, Director of Communications with the Department of Natural Resources at 317-232-4003 or pbloom@dnr.in.gov.



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Natural Resources